

REMARKS

The specification and claims have been carefully reviewed in the light of the Office Action to which this amendment is responsive. By this amendment, independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to improve their form and to distinguish even more clearly over the prior art. New claim 18 has been added for more completely covering applicant's invention.

Claims 1-17 stand rejected as being anticipated by Beaumont (GB 2341850) and reconsideration of such rejection is respectfully requested. As brought out in the prior prosecution, applicant's invention relates to a rotary printing press having a sheet guide apparatus which, consistent with the prior art, includes a sheet guide that defines a guide surface through which air is directed, either positively or negatively, for guiding sheet movement. Also consistent with the prior art, the sheet guide has a comb shaped end with spaced apart guide fingers adjacent the sheet transfer area.

Pursuant to an important aspect of the present invention, a pneumatic system is provided for directing an air stream externally over an end of the comb and between the spaced apart guide fingers toward the sheet transfer area. Hence, to facilitate sheet transfer, air is provided along the sheet guide surface, as well as between the sheet guide fingers. Beaumont, applicant's prior art patent, teaches a sheet guide having a guide surface through which air is directed and a comb shaped end with spaced apart guide fingers adjacent the transfer area. The sheet guide fingers each have respective air nozzles 13 arranged as an extension of the guide surface through which air is directed. Beaumont does not teach a pneumatic system for directing air externally over an end of the comb and between the guide fingers as called for in independent claims 1 and 12 as now presented. Indeed, as depicted in the drawings and as explicitly described in the specification, the nozzles 13 in the guide fingers are "integrated into the tines 17" so that at a blown airstream emerges at the guide surface 16." (Pg. 6, ll. 34-36.) There is no teaching or suggestion in Beaumont of a pneumatic system which directs air externally

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over the end of the comb and to spaces between the guide fingers toward the transfer area to facilitate more reliable sheet transfer.

Hence, it is believed that the claims as now presented all are directed to features which neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art so as to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis R. Schlemmer, Reg. No. 24,703
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

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